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Q96406

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (original): A method for producing a polymer compound, wherein said method comprises

a method for polymerizing a monomer represented by the following formula (1) in the presence of a condensation reagent to produce a homopolymer:

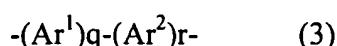


(wherein  $X^1$  and  $X^2$  independently represent groups to be eliminated in condensation, and  $Ar^1$  represents di-valent aromatic group having a substituent group comprising at least a sulfonic acid or a salt thereof, or a sulfonic acid via a connecting group or a salt thereof), or

for copolymerizing a monomer represented by the above-described formula (1) and a monomer represented by the following formula (2) in the presence of the condensation reagent to produce a copolymer represented by the following formula (3):



(wherein  $X^3$  and  $X^4$  independently represent groups to be eliminated in condensation, and  $Ar^2$  represents di-valent aromatic group optionally having a substituent group),



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(wherein Ar<sup>1</sup> and Ar<sup>2</sup> respectively represent the same meanings described above, q represents a positive number, r represents 0 or a positive number, and the sum of q and r is 300 or more); and wherein said condensation reagent and said monomer(s) are mixed at a temperature of 45°C or more.

2. (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the condensation agent is a transition metal complex.

3. (original): The method according to Claim 2, wherein the transition metal complex is a zero-valent transition metal complex.

4. (original): The method according to Claim 3, wherein the zero-valent transition metal complex comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of a zero-valent nickel complex and zero-valent palladium complex.

5. (original): The method according to Claim 4, wherein the zero-valent nickel complex is bis(1,5-cyclooctadiene)nickel(0).

6. (original): The method according to any one of Claims 2 to 5, wherein 2,2'-bipyridyl is further co-present.

7. (currently amended): A polymer compound produced by ~~any one of methods according to Claims 1 to 5~~ the method according to Claim 1.

8. (original): The polymer compound according to Claim 7, comprising the formula (3) and having a number-average molecular weight of  $5 \times 10^4$  or more in terms of polystyrene standard.

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9. (currently amended): The polymer compound according to ~~Claims 7 or 8~~Claim 7, having an ion-exchange capacity of 0.8 meq/g or more.
10. (currently amended): A polymer electrolyte comprising an ingredient comprising the polymer compound(s) according to ~~Claims 7 to 9~~Claim 7.
11. (original): A polymer electrolyte member comprising the polymer electrolyte according to Claim 10.
12. (original): A catalyst composition comprising the polymer electrolyte according to Claim 10.
13. (original): A polymer electrolyte fuel cell comprising the polymer electrolyte membrane according to Claim 11.
14. (original): A polymer electrolyte fuel cell comprising the catalyst composition according to Claim 12.
15. (new): The polymer compound according to Claim 8, having an ion-exchange capacity of 0.8 meq/g or more.
16. (new): A polymer electrolyte comprising an ingredient comprising the polymer compound(s) according to Claim 8.
17. (new): A polymer electrolyte comprising an ingredient comprising the polymer compound(s) according to Claim 9.
18. (new): A polymer electrolyte comprising an ingredient comprising the polymer compound(s) according to Claim 15.